also act as a convenor of the Committee which will have one or two banks having maximum number of branches in the centre as members. The Committee will also monitor and supervise the progress of the scheme. The loan will be recovered in 33 equal monthly instalments after a grace period of 3 months.

Independence to Namibia

37. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of solution discussed at the recent Summit meeting of NAM held at Harare for forcing the Pretoria regime to put an end to its racist policies and for bringing about Independence to Namibia; and

(b) what is the course of action decided upon in the matter and to be pursued by NAM countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Harare NAM Summit called for early convening of the Security Council to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. The meeting of the Security Council is expected to take place shortly. Pending the adoption of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions the Harare Summit identified and endorsed some specific measures against South Africa and commended the adoption by the international community. It also established a Committee of Ministers to canvass for the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanction against South Africa and to visit some key industralised countries in this connection. The Committee is currently visiting some West European countries and Japan. The Harare Summit had also mandated Foreign Ministers of some nonaligned countries to participate in the UN General Assembly Special Session on Namibia in September, 1986. The session has called for a meeting of the Security Council for urgent implementaion of Security Council Resolution 435 (1978) on Namibian independence.

Solution of ethnic conflicts in Sri Lanka

38. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in recent weeks in arriving at a solution to the problem of ethnic violence in Sri Lanka; and

(b) the details of the good offices provided by India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) In recent weeks some progress has been made towards a solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka Government held discussions with the TULF in July and August, 1986 and have thereafter conveyed a package of proposals to TULF for finding a solution. These have been reformulated by the TULF after discussions with legal experts and have been conveyed to other Sri Lanka Tamil groups.

Government is concerned at the continuing violence in Sri Lanka, particularly attacks on the civilian population Government is of the view that violence and counter-violence in Sri Lanka can be brought to an end only through a negotiated political settlement of the ethnic crisis.

LIC policy to winners of Seol Asia Games

39. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Life Insurance Corporation has offered free with profit endowment insurance policies as gift for the medal winners of the Indian contingent to the Seol Asian Games; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that the Life Insurance Corporation has offered free "with profit endowment insurance policies" as gift for the individual as well as team medal win-

ners of the Indian contingent to the Seol Asian Games as per details given below:—

(1) For individual events the gift comprises of policy for Rs. 50,000|- for each Gold medal winner, Rs. 40,000|- for each Silver medal winner and Rs. 30,000|- for each Bronze medal winner. For team events each Gold medal winner will be given a policy Rs. 30,000/- each Silver medal winner a policy for Rs. 25,000|- and each Bronze medal winner a policy for Rs. 20,000|-.

(2) If any sportsperson has won more than one medal, the sum assured under the policy will be determined by the highest medal won by the participant in any event.

(3) The Sportsperson receiving the LIC policy as gift will not have to pay premiums and the policy will be kept in force by the LIC.

(4) The policy will be for a term of 20 years or with maturity at age 50 of the sportsperson, whichever is earlier.

(5) all these free policies ill participate in the biennial valuation of the LIC and will be entitled to reversionary bonus.

(6) The awards are exepected to give a measure of financial security to the sportspersons at the end of their active sports participating career.

Setting up of Tobacco Corporation

40. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a separate Tobacco Corporation to monitor export trade and undertake development; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b) No Sir, The Tobacco Board set up under the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, is already undertaking monitoring and promotion of tobacco exports and regulation of production of virginia tobacco.

Trade agreement between India and USSR

41. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement has recently been signed between India and the USSR for increasing cooperation in the field of trade and economic relations; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b) No agreement has been signed recently between India and the USSR for increasing cooperation in the field of trade and economic relations. However a Trade Agreement was signed between the two countries, on 23-12-1985 extending the Rupee payment arrangement from 1st January, 1986 to 31st December, 1990. The salient features of the Agreement are that payments for all commercial and non-commercial transactions between the two countries are to be made in non-convertible Indian rupees and the rupees are to be utilised by the Soviet authorities for purchase of Indian goods and services for export to the USSR. The trade is to be conducted as hitherto on a balancing basis over a period of time. The agreement also provides for automatic renewal for subsequent periods of 5 years at a time unless either party gives a written notice to the other atleast six months in advance of the date of expiry of the Agreement of its intention to modify it.

Introduction of currency note of higher denominations

42. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce currency notes of higher denominations; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Currency notes of Rs. 500|- denominations are proposed to be introduced during 1987.